

REMARKS

The Abstract was objected to because of the use of the wording "There is provided."
Applicant has corrected the Abstract as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-5, 10, 12-18 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,824,013 issued to Allen. Claims 6-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Allen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,694,550 issued to Lee. Claims 19-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 26-27 have been allowed.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-13 in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant has amended Claim 14 by including the limitations of objected to Claim 19 as well as all of the limitations of intervening Claims 15, 16, 17 and 18. It is therefore submitted that Claim 14 as amended is now allowable.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 15-19 because the subject matter of those claims has been incorporated into Claim 14 as amended.

Claim 20 has been amended to depend from allowable independent Claim 14. It is therefore submitted that Claims 20, 21 and 22 are also now allowable.

Claim 23, which depends from allowable Claim 14 should also now be allowable.

Claim 24, which depends from Claim 23, and Claim 25, which depends from Claim 24, should also now be allowable.

New method Claim 28 has been added. Method Claim 28 contains the identical method steps as allowed Claim 26. In fact, all of Claim 28 is identical to allowed Claim 26 except, in the preamble, the words "substantially rigid" have been replaced with the word "supportive" in

reference to the core element. It is submitted that Claim 28 is also allowable for the same reasons that Claim 26 was allowed.

A check in the amount of \$44.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the fee for the additional independent claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b). Applicant continues to qualify as a small entity.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. An early allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

CARTER SCHNEDLER & MONTEITH, P.A.

By: 

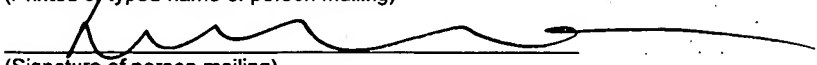
David M. Carter
Registration No. 26,407
56 Central Avenue, Suite 101
P.O. Box 2985
Asheville, N.C. 28802
Telephone: (828) 252-6225
Facsimile: (828) 252-6316

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